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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Report from Vanceboro, Me.—Precautions taken on Canadian border to prevent importation of smallpox.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Young reports, January 29, as follows:

During the week ended January 28, 1906, the passenger travel through this port was only 663. Of this number 20 were vaccinated and 1 was refused admission.

Since my last report smallpox has developed at Baillie, a small village between Fredericton Junction and Hoyt, on the Canadian Pacific Railway direct line.

These cases, as well as those at Hoyt, which I mentioned in my last report, originated in a lack of quarantine at Geary, in Sunbury County, the original victims in both places having visited smallpox houses in the last-named parish.

Recent developments in the village of Havelock, Kings County, indicate the same negligence in disinfection and quarantine. At present I discriminate against passengers from 5 stations on the Inter-Colonial Railway in Kings County.

The situation at Tracey, Little Lake, and Waterboro remains about the same as last week.

At Burtts Corner the epidemic seems under control.

Report from Gulfport, Miss.—Health conditions—Circular of recommendations relative to preventing recurrence of yellow fever.

Under date of January 29, Acting Assistant Surgeon Sheely reports excellent health conditions and no mortality at Gulfport during the previous two weeks, and incloses a circular issued by the committee of the coast towns, signed by himself as president and by the members of the committee, embodying the following suggestions:

1. All lots and low places in town or city where there is stagnant water should be immediately drained and filled in so that there can be no breeding places for the mosquito; and that all cans, bottles, and open vessels about premises and in alleys be collected and buried, for we know that in these receptacles containing clean rain water is the favorite breeding place of our enemy, the *stegomyia*.

2. We urge a thorough screening of all cisterns and the oiling of same prior to March 1, so as to do away with this common source of proliferation.

3. All houses in the towns should be screened with gauze or wire of not less than 16 meshes to the inch, and that the screen doors of all houses be supplied with springs so as to insure their being closed at all hours. This should be done not later than March 1.

4. We also advise that every family have on hand at least one mosquito-proof net for the purpose of immediately screening anyone who should be taken ill. We do not mean by this only yellow fever or suspicious cases, but we refer to all diseases—malaria, chills and fever, typhoid, measles, and others attended by even the slightest rise of temperature.

5. And finally, though most important of all, we request that a general fumigation throughout each town be held on one of the coldest days in February. We request a thorough fumigation, not of one or two rooms of the house, but of the entire premises, halls, and closets as well. The cold weather will drive the naturally domestic *stegomyia* into the house and by this means we can effectually kill all the mature insects and need only fear infection from without.

We request that you give these suggestions your earnest attention and have them printed in such shape as to meet the eyes of every inhabitant of the town.

We urge all citizens to see that these recommendations are complied with.

Report from Norfolk, Va.—Status of smallpox—Vaccination of crews of vessels.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue reports, February 2, as follows:

Smallpox continues to spread in Norfolk and vicinity. In the smallpox hospital on Craney Island there are at present 138 cases and 8 or 10 in the city. The average of new cases is from 6 to 8 daily.

During the month of January 165 persons, the personnel of crews of vessels, were vaccinated in this office.

STATISTICAL REPORTS OF STATES AND CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
YEARLY AND MONTHLY.

CALIFORNIA—*Mortality statistics for December.*—For December, mortality statistics were reported to the State board of health from 53 counties with a population estimated at 1,723,773. There were 2,498 deaths exclusive of stillbirths. These figures represent an annual death rate of 17.4. The high death rate reflects the great mortality in December from pneumonia and other diseases of the respiratory system, and also indicates that the population of California has increased more rapidly since than before 1900, the low estimate for the population found by the Census Bureau method necessarily making the death rate too high.

The proportion of deaths caused by diseases of the respiratory system (pneumonia, bronchitis, etc.) was considerably greater for December than for November. The leading specific cause of death, as usual, was tuberculosis, with pneumonia and heart disease next in order. There were 36 deaths from enteric fever and 392 from tuberculosis.

CONNECTICUT—*Bridgeport.*—Month of December, 1905. Estimated population, 82,128. Total number of deaths, 127, including diphtheria 5, measles 1, scarlet fever 1, and 19 from tuberculosis.

Stamford.—Month of January, 1906. Estimated population, 18,000. Total number of deaths not reported. No deaths from contagious diseases.